

REMARKS

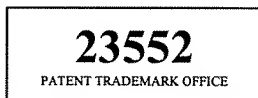
Applicants hereby delete the claim of benefit to commonly assigned U.S. patent application Ser. Nos. 08/744,002, filed November 4, 1996; 08/935,383, filed September 23, 1997; and 09/007,265, filed January 14, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,210,429. Applicants also delete the claim of benefit to U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/088,301, filed June 5, 1998. Applicants also delete the claim of benefit to International Application US99/00835, now PCT Publication No. WO99/36002.

Applicants retain the claim of benefit to copending U.S. Patent Application Serial Nos. 09/614,472; 09/325,996; and 09/455,299 as indicated in the above amendment to the specification.

In accordance with MPEP 201.11, it is Applicants' understanding that a supplemental combined declaration need not be filed and no additional action is required to delete the benefit claim. If Applicants understanding is incorrect, then it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,



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